Press Release March 30, 2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Dr. Sharon Harris 516- 676-2008 safeglencove@yahoo.com

## SAFE, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) COVID-19 Update

SAFE, Inc. and NYS OASAS are concerned about how COVID -19 has affected the community. The added stress this pandemic can take on emotional and physical well -being is serious.

Please take advantage of the state's free mental health counseling services available to anyone by calling the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314. These volunteer mental health professionals stand ready to help you reconcile the emotional ramifications and stressors resulting from the coronavirus crisis.

Additionally, OASAS has put in place various tools and practices to ensure continued and uninterrupted services for individuals currently in treatment. These include telepractice protocols, guidance for our providers, information to the public, and standing emergency response directives and plans.

Provided below are links to important information regarding COVID-19 that can also be found on the OASAS website. Please refer to these links to access current and relevant information.

- Coronavirus Updates for Providers: <u>https://oasas.ny.gov/keywords/coronavirus</u>
- Coronavirus Updates for Individuals and Families: <u>https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home</u>

Staying connected in these challenging times will allow everyone to share positive messages of hope and safety. It will also serve to increase social interactions that will to minimize the feelings of isolation caused by personal distancing. Please visit the OASAS social media accounts at <u>www.facebook.com/NewYorkStateOASAS/</u> and <u>https://twitter.com/nysoasas</u> <u>?lang=en</u> to view their latest public service campaign and to receive messages that can be shared with family, friends and community at-large.

SAFE (Substance Abuse Free Environment), Inc. is the only alcohol and substance use prevention agency in the City of Glen Cove. To learn more about SAFE's please visit <u>www.safeglencove.org.</u>